

## **Request for Proposals**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on behalf of the Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative**

**Opportunity Title: Climate Change Adaptive Science Capacity – Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative Fiscal Year 2010**

**Opportunity Number: FWSR1-PICCC-FY2010**

**Due May 30, 2010**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is soliciting proposals for applied scientific work that addresses the projected effects of climate change and on how these effects may impact native terrestrial and marine plants and animals in the Pacific Islands Geographic Area. This work is in support of the Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative (PICCC), which is an applied conservation science partnership located in Honolulu, Hawai'i and formed to addresses climate change and other landscape scale change events throughout U.S. territories in the Pacific; see <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Climatechange/lcc.html> for a map of the Pacific Islands Geographic Area and a description of the PICCC and its research and management goals.

Scientific projects of interest to the PICCC will ultimately help inform resource management decisions that address landscape-scale stressors to fish, wildlife, and plants of the Pacific Islands Geographic Area, with a particular focus on climate change. Funds for scientific work for the PICCC were appropriated to the Service in the FY 2010 budget allocation. Performance measures oblige the Service to quickly and astutely commit the funds to priority scientific projects. This request for proposals is required in order to ensure work begins as quickly as possible on FY 2010 projects. The Service will obligate funds to scientific projects for the PICCC under its Climate Change Planning and Adaptive Science Capacity Programs. Each project can range up to \$250,000 in cost and can be new and novel with a multi-year time line; can utilize data already collected, performing a synthesis of work from previous studies such that the project can be completed without additional field work; or other creative strategies.

### **Goals of the Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative**

1. Using global and regional models of climate change, develop models that predict how natural resources and processes may respond to climate change. The focus of modeling will be ecosystem-modifying invasive species; rare native species; common species that structure ecosystems; natural habitats such as bogs, coral reefs, or forests; and critical ecological processes such as nutrient or hydrological cycles.

2. Assess management options using models and historical data, and collectively determine priority conservation strategies. To make the link between modeling and management, the PICCC will assess the vulnerability of targeted species and ecosystems, and assist partners in choosing among potential management strategies based on their likelihood for success.
3. Validate ecological models and management actions through research and coordinated monitoring. Experiments will be needed to clarify how native species respond to novel conditions. Strategic monitoring of responses to climate change and management actions will help refine models and decision-making in an adaptive management process.
4. Provide a forum for continuous exchange, feedback, and understanding among stakeholders, researchers, land managers, and communities. As a true partnership, the PICCC will serve the needs of its members, and will act as a hub of information, projections, and conservation design for any group or individual interested in conserving biodiversity in the Pacific Islands. Open public access to PICCC products will promote understanding and support of changes in conservation strategy.

**Selection Criteria. Interested parties should read the background material referenced above, and consider the following selection criteria that will be used to evaluate and score project proposals:**

1. Nexus with climate change. The PICCC was formed to provide the science needed to guide land management. Landscape stressors, including climate change impacts, are a primary focus of PICCC. Project proposals should have direct application to addressing climate change impacts in the PICCC geographic area. Consideration will be given to scientific merit, methodology, and overall quality of the proposal.
2. Ranking. Proposals that address fundamental physical and/or biological changes due to climate change in the Pacific Islands geographic area, or that address PICCC research and management goals will be given higher priority; see <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Climatechange/lcc.html> for a map of the Pacific Islands Geographic Area and a description of the PICCC and its research and management goals.
3. Pacific Island Species. Proposals should provide information that will ultimately benefit the management of species listed in the Hawai'i State Wildlife Action Plan or are in the Pacific Islands Geographic Area or receive formal protection from the

U.S., State of Hawai'i, Government of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Government of American Samoa.

4. Pacific Islands Ecosystems. Proposals should provide information that will ultimately contribute to knowledge required to manage habitats, ecosystems and landscapes for the benefit of all native taxa within the major marine and terrestrial subsections of the Pacific Islands Geographic Area.
5. Partnerships. Partnerships that demonstrate cross-disciplinary scientific or conservation alliances among professionals in research, conservation planning and delivery/management, and communications will help in selection for funding.
6. Consultation and partnership with conservation delivery personnel. Project products will be used to guide natural resource management. Consultations with conservation delivery personnel in an effort to incorporate management concerns into the research products will help in selection for funding. Scientific projects that have direct application to on-the-ground management and meet the goals of the PICCC will be scored accordingly.

**Proposal Format**. Persons and organizations interested in submitting proposals should go to the Full Announcement and Application Instructions posted on Grants.gov (Funding Opportunity Number: FWSR1-PICCC-FY2010).

**Selection Process**. A committee of 8-10 members of the PICCC steering committee will be convened to evaluate the proposal relative to the needs of the PICCC. An attempt will be made to have representation from state wildlife managers; researchers at the state, federal and university level; not-for profits, etc. Successful applicants will be notified by June 10, 2010.